

## Preaching the Bible

Each year, Methodist Evangelicals Together hosts an expository preaching conference, 'Digging for Treasure', to encourage Methodist preachers to regain confidence in expository preaching, restoring it to its place of central importance in the life of the church. We do hope you will join us in 2011 for an inspiring and challenging day!

### Digging for Treasure: Courage to Preach the Word

Saturday, 26th November 2011, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, London

Keynote speakers include Richard Bewes  
(former Rector of All Souls, Langham Place, London)  
and others to be confirmed

To book your place, please contact Hazel Harwood (details below)

For more information visit:

[www.biblefresh.com](http://www.biblefresh.com)

[www.bigbible.org.uk](http://www.bigbible.org.uk)

[www.deepening-discipleship.com](http://www.deepening-discipleship.com)

[www.met-uk.org/bible](http://www.met-uk.org/bible)

[www.kingjamesbibletrust.org](http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org)

For further information about The Big Read and the Big Bible Project email Dr Bex Lewis: [bex.lewis@durham.ac.uk](mailto:bex.lewis@durham.ac.uk). For The Big Read Housegroup resources, contact Hazel Harwood, MET Administrator, phone 0113 2622332 or email [admin@met-uk.org](mailto:admin@met-uk.org).

# Celebrating the Bible in 2011

2011 will mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible. For four hundred years, the King James Version has been the most familiar and widely read Bible translation in the world, recognised for centuries as both a religious

and literary classic. Published in 1611, it was not, as is commonly quoted, the first Bible to be published in English, but has had the most profound impact upon English culture, with its language an inspiration for virtually every great writer since the seventeenth century. Four hundred years later, the year 2011 presents the Church with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and rediscover the Bible.



## Biblefresh

Biblefresh is a national movement, joining together hundreds of Churches, agencies, organisations, colleges and festivals with the vision to reignite the Church's enthusiasm and passion for the Bible. Sadly, for many in our churches the Bible seems to be viewed as tedious rather than treasured, trusted and true. In the year which marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible, the Biblefresh initiative seeks to encourage greater confidence and passion for Scripture across the Church. Read on to find out two exciting ways in which you and your Church can celebrate, engage with and rediscover the Bible in 2011.



## The Bible in a Year

In the Year of the Bible, why not celebrate Scripture by attempting to read the whole of the Bible in one year? There are a huge number of resources around that will help to guide you through the Bible in one year. Here we've narrowed the selection down to just three. Why not use one of these to use as you journey through the Bible in 2011?

### Bible in One Year

Produced for the 2010 Methodist Conference to mark the forthcoming Year of the Bible, the special Methodist edition of this popular arrangement sets the entire Bible into easily-digestible readings for every day of the year. The translation used is the New International Version (NIV) - the world's most popular Bible. It is available from Methodist Publishing by phone: 01733 235962 or online: [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk) and is priced at £14.00 + p&p. (ISBN: 9781444701395)

### The Robert Murray M'Cheyne Bible Reading Plan / For the Love of God

The evangelical minister, Robert Murray M'Cheyne died in 1843 at the age of 29, yet in the short years of his life had become well-known as a preacher and pastor. To assist his congregation in their daily devotional Bible reading, he produced a plan that covered four chapters a day, guiding people through the Old Testament once and the New Testament and Psalms twice in a year. Since its publication, it has been widely recommended as a daily Bible reading plan. The plan has been published under the title 'More Precious than Gold', available for £1 from [www.10ofthose.com](http://www.10ofthose.com) or phone 01257 278570.

Don Carson has written a series of reflections for every day, based on these readings, which have been published in two volumes, 'For the Love of God'. Each volume is priced at £14.99 + p&p and is available from the publishers, IVP, by phone: 0115 978 1054 or online: [www.ivpbooks.com](http://www.ivpbooks.com). (ISBN: 9780851115894 (Volume 1) and 9780851119748 (Volume 2))

*Prices correct at time of printing.*

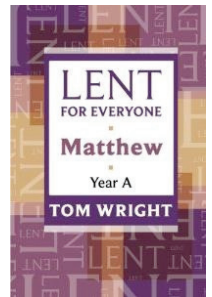
## The Bible in a Year – Start Any Time

Scripture Union has produced a very handy small booklet, offering 365 readings that cover the whole Bible. Being undated, they can be started any time. The booklet is priced at just £1 + p&p and is available from Scripture Union by phone: 08450 706006 or online: [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk) (ISBN: 185999086X)

## The Bible in Lent

### Lent for Everyone: Matthew

Both the Methodist Church and the Biblefresh movement are challenging everyone to take part in a national programme for Lent, known as #BigRead2011. The challenge involves meeting together in housegroups to read the Bible, making use of Tom Wright's 'Lent for Everyone: Matthew' (available from December 2010) with opportunities to go much bigger and become more creative by joining with others around the country and even around the world in online discussions. From quiet sitting rooms with Bibles and books, to coffee shops and internet chatrooms across the world... Get involved!



### What do I need to do?

- Book #BigRead2011 into your diary for Lent 2011.
- Talk to your church leader/church meeting about adopting #BigRead2011 as your church's Lent housegroup programme
- Pencil in five dates for Lent 2011 – one for Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday, 8th March this year) and then four housegroup sessions.
- Advertise your housegroups in your church and neighbourhood
- Keep an eye out on [www.bigbible.org.uk](http://www.bigbible.org.uk) for updates and materials.
- Housegroup discussion material will be available from the BigBible website and from the MET administrator.

